



CCM 2014 Testimony

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GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM supports SB 83 "*An Act Concerning Municipal Notice of Alcoholic Liquor Permit Renewals*" which would require that permittees seeking liquor permit renewals through the Department of Consumer Protection, to also provide written notification to local chief law enforcement officers of their renewal intent. This proposal would apply only to permit renewals. Current law only requires local law enforcement officers' approval for granting temporary permits.

SB 83 would allow local officials to be included in this crucial step of the alcoholic liquor renewal process. Often, law enforcement officials are aware of local establishments with problematic practices such as a history of serving to minors, serving to those that have consumed too much alcohol, and generally ignoring issues of drinking and driving, littering, etc.. These are matters of serious concern to our communities and impact our local public safety.

As a result of recent increases in violence within bars and nightclubs throughout the state, SB 83 would be a reasonable means of enhancing the quality of life that our dedicated public safety officials strive to protect on a day-to-day basis. CCM would also support other initiatives to address violence in these establishments, such as allowing municipalities to create a policing district for any area that contains a high concentration of permitted liquor establishments, and granting municipalities the authority to seek an injunction to close down any establishment, once there is substantial evidence of a serious threat to public health, safety and/or welfare.

CCM urges the committee to favorably report SB 83.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.